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### Collaborating Against Human Trafficking

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# Collaborating Against Human Trafficking

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# Anti-Human Trafficking (AT) Efforts



- Assessed as lacking coordination across sectors and levels of intervention, and between source, transit, and destination countries
- Understudied (Laczko, 2005, Mattar, 2004, Schauer and Wheaton, 2006)
- Overarching aims of research: 1) Map AT efforts longitudinally & developmentally; 2) Trace collaboration; and 3) Catalyze collaboration by illuminating good practices in robust multi-sector coalitions

# Methods



1. Database of AT Actors' Websites
2. Hyperlink Analysis of AT Web Real Estate and Link Neighborhoods
3. Content Analysis of AT Actors' Websites
4. Participant Observation in Multi-Sector Coalitions

# Method 1: Database of Anti-trafficking Actors' Websites

- Multiple search queries, multiple search engines
- Purposive identification across sectors
- Catalog record for each actor's site(s)
- 999 anti-trafficking websites catalogued to date, produced by actors in multiple sectors worldwide
- 1758 URLs collected via hyperlink-analysis

# Method 2: Iterative Hyperlink Analysis of AT Sites

## Purposes:

- Identify a broader array of AT actors
- Situate the AT web network in relation to other online issue networks, i.e. link neighborhoods
- Assess patterns of linking relationships between verified AT actors' sites
- Compare actors' linking relationships with their stated collaborations and associations

# AI Relevance and Level of AI Web Real Estate in Online Issue

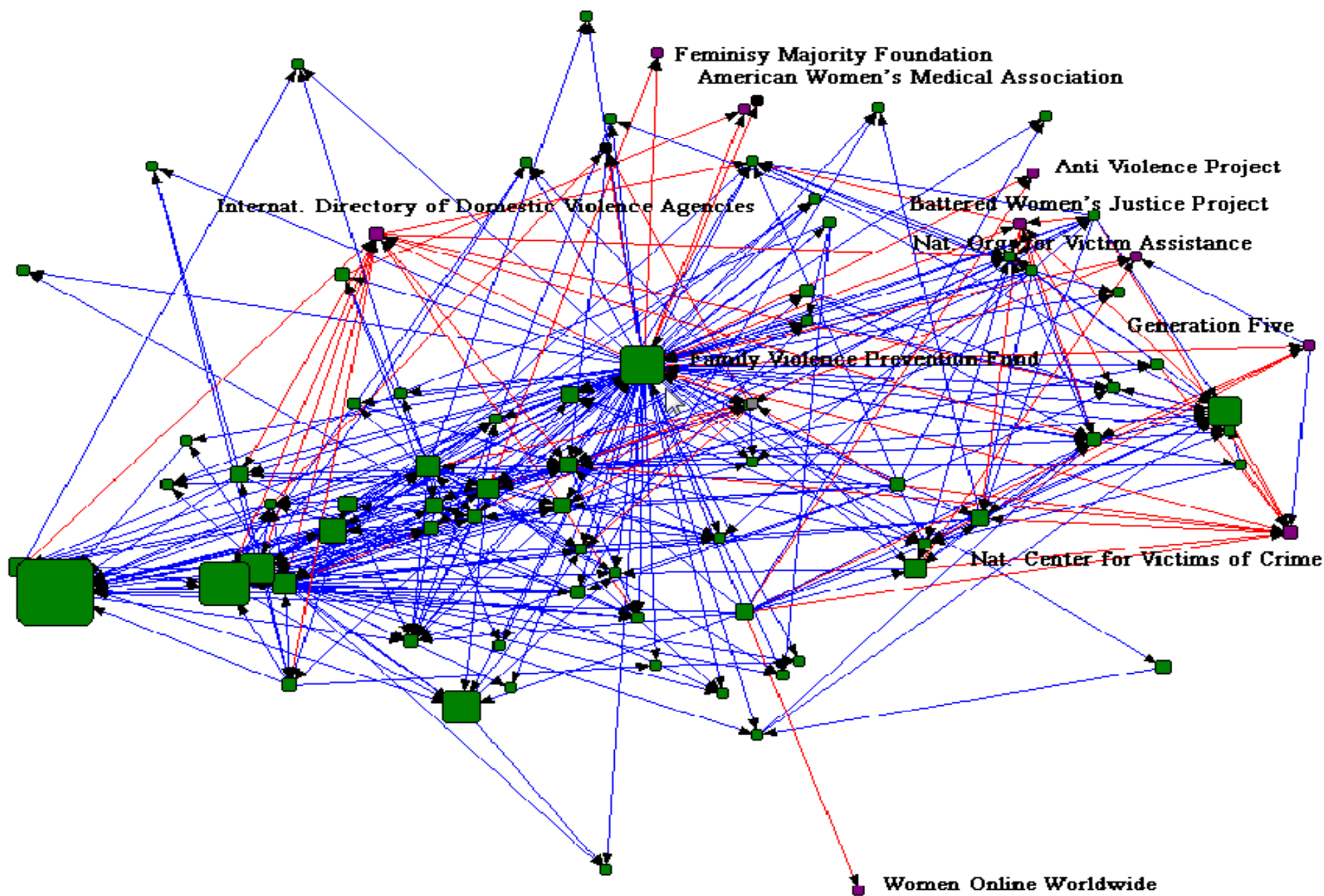
## Networks

	n	% of coded sites	% of AT sites
Anti-Trafficking Sites	999	73%	
<i>Mentioned AT</i>	442	32%	44%
<i>&gt; 1 page about AT</i>	353	26%	35%
<i>Site dedicated to AT</i>	204	15%	20%
Social Justice	153	11%	-
Non-Social Justice	134	10%	-
Non-Functional	87	6%	-
Total	1373	100%	99%

# Hyperlinks as Collaboration Tools

- Hyperlinks can signal
  - ▣ Informational resources
  - ▣ Affinity
  - ▣ Formal collaboration
- Collections of sites that link to each other can
  - ▣ Create issue networks and link neighborhoods
  - ▣ Coproduce online structures through which web users find ways to learn about human trafficking and get involved in AT efforts.





**Domestic Violence Link Neighborhood Adjoining AT Issue Network**

# Method 3: Content Analysis of Actors' Sites - 2008, 2009, 2010

- 2010: Purposive sample of 164 sites, stratified by geographic base region (N=11)
  - ▣ 64% based in N. America & Europe
  - ▣ 15% based in South & Southeast Asia
  - ▣ 10% based in multiple regions
- Coding scheme of ~80 measures
  - ▣ Anti-slavery/trafficking actions and locations of activity
  - ▣ **Coalition-building claims**
  - ▣ **Sustained inter-organizational collaboration**

# Inter-Organizational Collaborators (IOCs)

- Defined as actors which explicitly **identify themselves as part of a named, multi-organization coalition, network, or alliance, with at least three member organizations.**
- Collaboration or partnership on a project or program was not sufficient to code an actor as an IOC.
- IOCs have established “connective tissue”, i.e. more durable, collaborative relationships with other actors that are not project-specific.

# Anti-Human Trafficking Activities



- ▣ Awareness raising
- ▣ Conducting research on human trafficking
- ▣ Enforcement of anti-trafficking laws/policies
- ▣ Equipping others to counter trafficking
- ▣ Intervention to stop trafficking/rescue victims
- ▣ Policy advocacy ~ Policymaking
- ▣ Prevention
- ▣ Rehabilitation of trafficked persons

→ Each activity is comprised of 5-7 actions

# The IOC Difference in Anti-Trafficking Efforts

IOCs engage more intensively than non-IOCs in 4 of 8 anti-human trafficking activities :

- ❖ Awareness-raising
- ❖ Equipping others in anti-trafficking efforts
- ❖ Policy advocacy
- ❖ Research on human trafficking

Intensity does not correlate with IOC status in these AT activities: enforcement, intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation efforts.

# Inter-Organization Collaboration: Aspiration vs. Actuality in 2010



- **Aspiration:** 65% of AT actors report engaging in coalition-building
- **Actuality:** Among those involved in coalition-building, 37% identify themselves as IOCs
- 29% of all AT actors identify themselves as IOCs

# Method 4: Participant Observation of Coalition Interactions



- Attended over 30 inter-organizational meetings to date (most were also multi-sector)
- Participated in two intensive multi-sector AT projects
- Fieldnotes on observed instances of inter-organizational and multi-sector interaction
- Interviews with leaders from multiple sectors about the challenges of and strategies for collaboration and multi-sector interaction

# Challenges



- ❑ Within sectors, competition for status, staff/volunteers, and funding constrains collab
- ❑ Across sectors, differing aims, priorities, procedures, and regulations, as well as by distrust (current or residual) constrains collab.
- ❑ Building connective tissue between organizations, whether within or across sectors, requires time, energy, and funding (for both personnel time and travel)



# Strategies



For developing inter-organizational & inter-sector collaboration

- ❑ Cultivate mutual respect, open-mindedness & trust between key personnel across organizations and sectors
- ❑ Invest time in open-ended conversations
- ❑ Conduct hypothetical case analyses together to foster mutual learning; use the insights gained to develop joint protocols
- ❑ Commit upfront to resolving (inevitable) conflicts.

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